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Governor

Alabama Medicaid Agency

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W. DALE WALLEY
Acting Commissioner

August 23, 2000

PROVIDER NOTICE 00-07

TO: Nursing Facility Providers
ICF/MR Facility Providers
Hospitals

SUBJECT: Payment for Reservation of Beds in Long Term Care Facilities

Effective September 1, 2000, neither Medicaid patients, nor their families, nor their sponsor, may be charged for reservation of a bed for the first four days of any period during which a Medicaid patient is temporarily absent due to admission to a hospital. Prior to discharge of the patient to the hospital, the patient, the family of the patient, or the sponsor of the patient is responsible for making arrangements with the nursing home for the reservation of a bed and any costs associated with reserving a bed for the patient beyond the covered four day hospital stay reservation period. The covered four day hospital stay reservation policy does not apply to:

1. Medicaid-eligible patients who are discharged to a hospital while their nursing home stay is being paid by Medicare or another payment source other than Medicaid;
2. Any non-Medicaid patients;
3. A patient who has applied for Medicaid but has not yet been approved; provided that if such a patient is later retroactively approved for Medicaid and the approval period includes some or all of the hospital stay, then the nursing home shall refund that portion of the bed hold reservation charge it actually received from the patient, family of the patient, or sponsor of the patient for the period that would have been within the four covered days policy; or
4. Medicaid patients who have received a notice of discharge for non-payment of service.

Providers will continue to notify the Alabama Medicaid Agency of the discharge, transfer, or nursing facility readmission of an eligible recipient.

Questions concerning this provider notice should be directed to Marilyn Ferguson, Director, Long Term Care Division at (334) 242-5009, or Georgette Harvest, Associate Director, LTC Project Development/Policy Unit at (334) 242-5040.

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Distribution:

Alabama Hospital Association
Alabama Nursing Home Association
Alabama Medicaid Agency Staff
Alabama Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation
Alabama Department of Public Health
Electronic Data Systems (EDS)

Our Mission - to provide an efficient and effective system of financing health care for our beneficiaries.